

From: llegere@timeshamrock.com
Sent: 8/13/2012 1:16:01 PM

To: "Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA" <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>; "Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA" <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov>

CC:
Subject: Dimock methane and arsenic questions

Dear Terri, Roy,

I am writing an article about the next steps in the affected area of Dimock where Cabot is prohibited by the state from resuming drilling and fracking operations until it stops the methane migration from its gas wells to the aquifers there. I have several questions about EPA's recent sampling and investigation in the township related to the methane migration issue:

1. What conclusions did EPA draw about the source and amount of methane in the Dimock drinking water wells it sampled? What did the EPA's isotopic analysis from 12 water supplies reveal about the type and provenance of the methane found in the water wells?

Before the EPA began sampling water in Dimock, two EPA officials, Karen Johnson and Jon Capacasa, wrote to PA DEP's Scott Perry raising concerns about the effectiveness of Cabot-installed treatment systems in removing gasses (as well as metals and organic chemicals) from water supplies, the long-term effectiveness and maintenance of the treatment systems, and the difficulty of verifying if Cabot's gas well remediation efforts have stopped the flow of methane into shallow aquifers. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Capacasa proposed that further logging, testing or other remediation of the gas wells may be necessary, and suggested that "the only means of remedying it might be to have Cabot" drill shallow gas wells to draw off pressure in the Upper Devonian formations.

2. After its evaluation of Dimock drinking water and state and Cabot data, has the EPA found that the treatment systems installed by Cabot in Dimock adequately remove contaminants -- including dissolved gases -- from the water, return the water to pre-drilling condition, and will be effective in the long term?

3. Based on EPA's sampling results and the data submitted by DEP and Cabot, does EPA believe that methane migration from Cabot's gas wells persists in Dimock? What remedies, including those outlined by Ms. Johnson and Mr. Capacasa, has EPA asked or required Cabot to take (or suggested that the state require Cabot to take) to address the problem? Has EPA determined that shallow gas recovery wells should be drilled to fix the problem?

Also, in a related issue regarding EPA's arsenic findings in Dimock:

4. Emails that EPA released through FOIA show that Cabot began providing replacement water to the resident with hazardous levels of arsenic (HW47) the day before EPA offered replacement water deliveries. Did EPA secure any long-term commitment from Cabot to provide replacement water or a treatment system for the resident?

If you can get back to me by the end of the day Wednesday I'd appreciate it.

Thanks very much,

Laura Legere

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